



**PTA General Membership Meeting
October 16, 2019, 8:45 am
Minutes**

- I. Call to Order – 8:51am
- II. Review and Approval of Minutes – 8:51am
 - a. Motion to approve / approved.
- III. Principal's Report – 8:52am
 - a. 7th graders have gone on a couple of field trips.
 - b. Graduation committee is up and running.
 - c. Math team from Metamorphosis coming in to work with 7th & 8th grades.
 - d. Admin is starting observations of classrooms next week.
 - e. Bungalow teacher/parent conferences on November 6 & 7– detailed info will be sent. Each conference will be 5 minutes.
 - f. Middle School Fair next Thursday.
 - g. 29 staff members have settled in.
- IV. Treasurers' Report- 8:56am – Christie Peale & Corinne Moreno-Geis
 - a. Modified report and budget passed out.
 - b. Co-Treasurers, Christie & Corinne, introduce themselves.
 - c. Review of report -- shows spending through the end of September. We're on track for (hopefully) raising \$420K; we'll keep an eye on the revenue every month.
 - d. Income – slow at the moment as events get started.
 - e. Expenses – Overall for September, we haven't overspent. Money will go out soon to fund more PD and Academic Enrichment.
 - f. Note that band enrichment is a large ticket item.
 - g. Distributed check register for the month of September. Note that sometimes money has to be fronted and then reimbursed, which is all indicated on the register.
 - h. Afterschool support – thanks to the additional seats, no need to augment with the 30K originally budgeted to show a revenue increase. The funds will be reallocated.
 - i. No longer in need of math workbooks. This 18K will also be reallocated.
 - j. The PTA is covering full cost of Mindfulness Coach. Additional reallocations of funds for Theatre for a New Audience and Equity Bias program.
 - k. Question re: Talent Show as a Community Builder possibly, but the kids have to decide what they want first.
 - l. The income and outflow for school supplies will always be the same – the money we raise from the parent body is used to purchase supplies through Shop DOE (like composition notebooks, pencils, binders, etc.). The majority of our money for supplies comes in May & June with new incoming 6th grade families. (FYI: Our budget starts July 1st).
 - m. Explanation of startup fund for each teacher: Teachers get \$250 from DOE and \$400 from the PTA for supplies not related to individual students (binders, notebooks, pencils), but supplies that benefit the whole class.
 - n. Brief discussion of math workbooks: a decision was made by admin and staff not to do math workbooks as it was a waste of paper & money. Teachers have new plans to create binders and use different formats.
 - o. There's a separate line for the \$12,800 cost of Equity and Implicit Bias Initiative. Cheryl Wu explains: It's an SLT initiative in partnership with staff and admin. 75 Morton is a zoned, unscreened school. Our school is very representative of District 2. How do we promote equity and inclusion? How do we understand what each kid needs? How do we treat people fairly? Jacqui & SLT want to bring in a team of experts to work first with staff and administrators. This will be a research year to figure out what we need and how

we should proceed (all of our kids will benefit!). This is an opportunity to work with great husband and wife team (Renee, professor in linguistics & sociology, studies how language represents each of us. Her husband, Ken, is a professor as well with a ton of accreditation.) Depending on how it goes this year, experts could meet with students next year. October 28th – they will shadow Wright, Katie, and Ilene, then they'll come to SLT on Nov. 12th. Professors are being generous with their time and what they're charging. After the two visits, they'll gather information and report on how to help navigate this diverse school.

- i. Nick brings up the equity workshops that happened last year. Cheryl says teachers weren't happy with that particular program so this new initiative will take its place.
- ii. Bob asks if we're going to get a report of their findings. Most likely we'll get something and admin will share.

p. Revised budget approved for 2019 – 2020 school year at 9:22am.

V. Presidents' Report – 9:23am

a. Past Events

- i. School Tours and Open House – Stella thanks everyone! Middle school fair next week and then “we're done!”
- ii. Class of 2020 Meet & Greet in the yard was well received. Always looking for ideas and suggestions on how to bring more people together, especially from outside of the neighborhood.
- iii. Java with Jacqui & Jill last week with Colin, the mindfulness coach, was well received (the subject was “parents taking care of themselves”). Javas are held 6-7 times a year. Next Java, on November 8th, will have Michelle Lipkin, digital social media person. She's a plethora of information on what your child is doing or wants to do online. We'll hear important new and relevant information about the digital world from texting to social media platforms and generally how to better parent in this technologically advanced world. There are plans for an evening Java, perhaps coinciding with a community event (i.e. movie night) for students.

b. Upcoming Events – Stella and Alexandra

- i. One Run – Sunday, October 20th – temperature in the 60s. Please sign up, run or walk. We raised \$2200 so far this year. We encourage sponsorships of other runners as well. 5K run is a fun run. You can search for runners online and sponsor them.
- ii. Mix & Mingle – Tuesday, October 22nd, 6-8pm at Brass Monkey. Parents in the school donated the space, food and beverages. Adults only. Food and open bar. \$25 in advance / \$30 at door.
- iii. Fright Night (6th grade) Dance – Wednesday, October 23rd, 6-7:30pm. They need help with baked goods, volunteering during dance, set up and clean up. The permission slip went out this morning to 6th grade families; it must be filled out for your child to attend. Students must have their ID cards to swipe in and swipe out. Deadline to sign up is midnight October 21st. Sign up even if you think your kid doesn't want to go.
- iv. Parent-Bungalow Conferences – Wednesday, November 6th (evening) – Thursday, November 7th (half day of school, dismissal at 11:30am) – bungalow-based as discussed.
- v. Family Portraits – Saturday, November 16th – Sunday November 17th. Morton parent is volunteering her time and skills for a fun family photo day (sorry, no pets). \$175 for the photo session with opportunities for add-ons. Will be able to select photos on the spot.

VI. Special Guest: Erik Bottcher, Chief of Staff to NYC Council Speaker Corey Johnson. Jacqui met Erik when 75 Morton was just an idea. She says we wouldn't be here without Erik and his co-worker, Pat. Erik speaks to parents on how the office can be financially supportive of our school. Their office represents the area of City District 3 from Canal Street to 63rd Street. There are dozens of schools in this area and they work closely with all of them.



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- a. Capital discretionary funding – each council member can allocate municipal budget in June. They gave \$100k to Morton for technology upgrades and hydroponics lab. For this coming year, he says to think about our capital needs – this means brick and mortar type of stuff (stuff that cannot be moved, like the green roof), or technology.
 - b. Participatory budget – 5th year of PB. A way for communities to propose projects and vote on as a community. Taking ideas for local schools, libraries, parks, streetscapes, playgrounds, etc. PB delegates get together and winnow down the list – community then votes on them. Middle school students can vote on the projects, and they learn how the city capital process works.
 - c. Afterschool slots originally worked out with Nick & Bob (former and first PTA presidents of Morton) when they shared space at Clinton. We’ve had to fight for additional seats since we’re thought of as a “new school.” However, Morton parents persisted with letters and emails. We did indeed receive 125 slots for this year.
 - d. Erik asks parents to think big and ask for what we want. Gayle Brewer’s office also has money to allocate, and her deadline is coming up. Corey is here for two more years. Corey’s deadline is March or April. Gayle Brewer has an online application. With Corey’s office it’s more informal – just let the office know what we’d like.
 - e. Discussion of PB about middle schoolers having the opportunity to vote, starting at age 11. Could we have a poll site in the lobby or library of the school? Kids can create their own projects as well. Erik will send email to help with ideas. Assemblies can be set up – learn how city budget projects work. Happens last week of March.
 - f. For example, the green roof – was not funded during the PB process, but the office funded it anyway.
 - g. Bob represents Morton on the Parent Action Committee (PAC), which liaises with the outside community about ways to improve the school. Parents can join him with ideas.
 - h. Pier 40 – RFP (request for proposals) needs to be written to get back proposals – apartment buildings will be built and a huge field for kids and a space open for the community.
- VII. Special Expedited Election for PTA 2nd Co-Vice President – 9:53am
- a. Mark DeLaBarre nominates himself for the position. He introduces himself and encourages everyone to volunteer and help as a community.
 - b. He runs unopposed. The recording secretary (Carmen) casts one vote to elect Mark to the position of Co-2nd VP. All were in favor.
- VIII. School Leadership Team (SLT) Report | slt@75morton.org – 9:56am. Already discussed their main objective above regarding Equity program.
- IX. Committees & Events – 9:56am
- a. Fundraising/Direct Appeal – Bob talks about the importance of giving to the school what you can. Anyone who wants to help Bob please talk to him. Mostly an emailing job. Easy but necessary.
 - b. Class of 2020 Committee – Nick Gottlieb, Kim Shay, Kim Youngberg, and Ilene are working on all things 8th grade graduation related. Our first graduating class! Number of things planned to make it special.
 - i. A breakfast to celebrate having completed the High School application process. Jaqueline Luxenberg will be leading that potluck scheduled for December 6th.
 - ii. Class trip in the Spring – taking suggestions. Ideas: Laser tag in Queens, Zip Line at the Zoo, Overnight lockdown in the Morton building – ideas for 240 kids.
 - iii. Graduation party – final Tuesday in June, after the graduation.
 - iv. Graduation – Possible venues include Cooper Union, BMCC, NY College on Jay Street, and maybe the Fashion High School. Team will make a decision in the next week.

- v. Graduation Contribution package – every 8th grade family asked to kick in \$175, which includes the party, class trip, breakfast, yearbook, and swag. There is a budget line for 8th grade graduation, but it will have to be supplemented.
- c. Jacqui talks about the Town Hall meetings by grade – 10:04am. Wright and Colin led them. Assembly about how to remain a community member in this building. Next Town Hall December 5th will highlight art intensives along with music and singing.
- d. Gardening Committee | garden@75morton.org, Elizabeth Smith – 10:06am – Please sign up on the volunteer sheet on Membership Toolkit.
- e. Community Building | 75 Morton Cares
 - i. Surveys re: community events like game night, movie night, roller skating, etc., were sent to students, but they all went into spam folders. So, students will fill out surveys during coding class. Talent show is mentioned in the survey. We can coordinate a movie night with Java night if that works.
 - ii. Candy Drive for Soldiers’ Angels – week of November 4th – after Halloween donate extra candy!
 - iii. Donate costumes to the school. There is a bin/bag in the lobby. Children may wear costumes on the 23rd (6th grade party day) and on Halloween. No accessories like wands or walking sticks. Makeup is fine, but no masks. Schools discretion at what’s not allowed.
 - iv. 7th graders are not being forgotten. Snowball Dance will accommodate 7th & 8th graders.
 - v. Coat drive – Jill has started coat and warm weather clothing drive. Accepting it all year round. Our very own students need clothing. Make donations are clean and like-new. Not accepting adult coats. Need sweatpants, hoodies, jackets, t-shirts, boots or sneakers, etc. Undergarments and socks have to be new and in a package. Backpacks are also acceptable.
- X. Old Business - none
- XI. New Business – none
- XII. Election Results – Mark!
- XIII. Adjournment – 10:16am.

The next PTA meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 20th, 6:00pm in the library!

2019-20 PTA Executive Board
pta@75morton.org

Co-Presidents (pta@75morton.org): Stella Chang | Alexandra van Schie
 Co-1st Vice Presidents: Kim Shay | Kim Youngberg
 Co-2nd Vice Presidents: Irma Gomez-Dib | OPEN
 Co-Treasurers (ptaTreasurer@75morton.org): Corinne Moreno-Geis | Christie Peale
 Co-Secretaries (ptaSecretary@75morton.org): Carmen Lamar Daehler | Meredith Hays
 Members at Large: Maya Brewster-Dorian | Beverly Buscemi | Millet Israeli | Jacqueline Luxenberg | Shenae Osborne | TBD